

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, and 11 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 10 are now amended. The claim amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and do not present new subject matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

## REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asks, "is the peripheral region formed outside the display region?" The answer to this question is yes. Applicant now amends Claim 11 to replace the word "outboard" with the word "outside." Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 112 rejection.

## REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,563,554). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part and with reference to Figures 1 and 3C for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, a resin layer 10 provided on at least one substrate of the pair of substrates and both a display

region and a peripheral region outside of the display region. The resin layer includes tapers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  with a larger inclination  $\beta$  in the display region than in the peripheral region  $\alpha$ . An electrode wiring 2b is formed between the electrooptical material and the tapers of the resin layer at both the display region and the peripheral region.

Amended Claim 10 recites, in part and with reference to Figure 1 and Figure 3C for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, a resin layer 10 provided on the substrate in both a display region and a peripheral region outside of the display region. An electrode 2b continuously extends across the resin layer in both the display region and the peripheral region. Tapers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  of the resin layer have a plurality of different angles.

The Okamoto et al. reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 1, an insulation film 11 partially covered by electrodes 7. Both the insulation film and the electrodes are confined to a display region.

The Office Action asserts that the Okamoto et al. reference further includes “a display region [9a] and a peripheral region [10a] outboard (outside) of the display region [9a].” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of the Okamoto et al. reference. Specifically, while area 9a is within the display region, area 10a is not outside or outboard of the display region as the Office Action asserts. Area 10a is within the display region. Therefore, the Okamoto et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a resin layer and a transparent electrode both within a display region and outside of a display region as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 10.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 102 rejection of Claims 1 and 10 and those claims dependent therefrom.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is dependent upon amended Claim 1. As set forth above, amended Claim 1 is now in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Claim 5 is also in a condition for allowance at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to amended Claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 103 rejection of Claim 5.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner states that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph in Claim 1 and to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant now amends Claim 3 into independent form. Specifically, Applicant now amends Claim 3 to include all of the features of Claim 1. Therefore, amended Claim 3 is now in a condition for allowance.

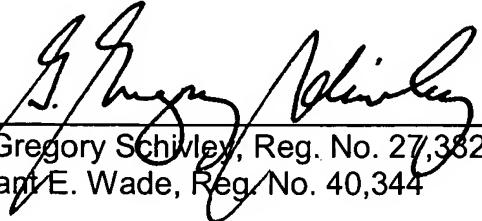
### **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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